

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. Claim 15 has been canceled. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 1-14 and 16-22.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the Examiner contends that the shaped body in the form of a compressibly shock-absorbing foot well lining of claim 12 is not shown. Applicant respectfully submits that FIG. 1 shows these features. FIG. 1 shows a front wall of a motor vehicle that is lined by elastic and conductive shaped bodies that reduce their electrical resistance upon compression in respect to volume. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 12, 17-18, and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,639,710) in view of Ju, Sung Ho (WO 95/27237). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of Ju, Song Ho further in view of Schemansky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,461,355). Claims 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of Ju, Song Ho further in view of Kimura (JP 63318030). Claims 15, 16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McMillan in view of Ju, Song Ho further in view of *VDO Cross-Section 4*, March 1981. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended so that it now includes the limitations of claim 15. Claim 15 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant will address the rejections of claim 15 with respect to amended claim 1.

The Examiner contends that the feature of claim 15 is performed by virtually any conventional electronic throttle or cruise control system, and cites to *VDO Cross-Section 4* as support. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Neither the *VDO* article nor any of the cited references show a "shaped body" that has "compression characteristic . . . with regions of

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different compression in respect to volume," where "a region of low level of compression in respect of volume" provides for "a substantially linear relationship between compression stroke distance S and mechanical energy E," while "a region of high compression in respect of volume" provides for an "over-proportionally non-linear relationship between the compression stroke distance S and the mechanical energy E." (Emphasis added). This feature is shown in FIG. 8 and described in the specification on pages 16, line 27 through page 17, line 7. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

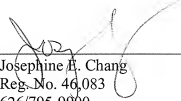
Claims 2-14, 16-18, and 20-22 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations that they contain.

Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of all pending claims 1-14 and 16-22 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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